United Nations S/2006/614

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 August 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 1 August 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the outcome of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Iraqi National Reconciliation Conference (see annex), held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo from 25 to 27 July 2006.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

06-45552 (E) 070806 080806

Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Outcome of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Iraqi National Accord Cairo, 25 to 27 July 2006

I. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Iraqi National Accord, comprising representatives of the Iraqi political forces, met from 25 to 27 July 2006 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo at the invitation and under the chairmanship of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League, and in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, representative of the Arab League for the attainment of Iraqi national accord; a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq; and representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (see attached list of participants). The opening meeting was attended by the permanent representatives of the member States of the Arab League. In his capacity as Chairman of the current session of the Council of the League, the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates delivered a statement in which he emphasized the support of the Arab States for efforts to achieve accord in Iraq. The Secretary-General of the League also made a speech that included an assessment of the situation in Iraq and of the mandate of the Committee.

II. The Committee reviewed developments in the situation in Iraq and discussed two items on its agenda concerning the following:

1. Deliberations on the agenda of the Conference on Iraqi National Accord that had been adopted at the preparatory meeting held in Cairo from 19 to 21 November 2005;

2. Preparation for the Conference on Iraqi National Accord, including the determination of its timing, venue and participants.

III. The Committee engaged in an open, in-depth study, conducted in a positive spirit, of the various political and security developments that had taken place in Iraq since the preparatory meeting held in Cairo in November 2005. It also reviewed the documents and working papers submitted by the participants. The discussions revealed agreement on the following points:

1. The commitment of all parties to the necessity of achieving reconciliation and national accord among the different political, religious and ethnic components of the Iraqi people and their recognition that reconciliation is a single, unified process and that all the proposed initiatives, in particular the efforts of His Excellency President Jalal Talabani and the initiative launched by His Excellency Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki, must be conducive to a single goal, that of strengthening the attainment of real and comprehensive national reconciliation that will confirm respect for the sovereignty of Iraq and the unity of its people and territory;

2. The need to put an end to the grave deterioration of the security situation in Iraq, the increase in acts of violence and terrorism that beset the Iraqi people and factional and ethnic tensions, together with the forced displacement and collective and individual acts of abduction that accompany them for a variety of reasons.

IV. Agreement was also reached on the following:

1. Reaffirmation of commitment to the principles and recommendations contained in the final communiqué of the preparatory meeting for the Conference on Iraqi National Accord held in Cairo in November 2005 and efforts to ensure a propitious atmosphere for holding the Conference and guaranteeing its success; and the desire on the part of all parties to take into account the debates and initiatives aimed at achieving national reconciliation and ensuring security and stability in Iraq;

2. The need for the present Constitution and its controversial clauses to be reviewed and be the subject of general and responsible discussion in order to safeguard the national unity of the territory and people of Iraq;

3. Condemnation of any accusations of unbelief or apostasy levelled against any element of the Iraqi people, inasmuch as such accusations go against the tolerant teachings of Islam, which forbid any Muslim to accuse a fellow Muslim of unbelief; and the need for efforts to promote Islamic values which enjoin brotherliness, tolerance and the establishment of national unity;

4. An appeal to the Government and to political, religious and clan leaders and civil society to launch an intensive, urgent campaign to eliminate sectarian tensions;

5. A request to all parties involved to establish a clearly defined programme for the return of all migrants to their homes and for their protection and indemnification;

6. The need to review the procedures, decisions and mechanisms of the Debaathification Board, including the prosecution and calling to account, in accordance with law, of those responsible for the commission of crimes against the Iraqi people;

7. The need to hold accountable and punish those responsible for the commission of crimes against the Iraqi people before and since 9 April 2003; to promote the role of the judiciary and make it the sole authority for dealing with terrorists guilty of crimes against the Iraqi people, with crimes of murder and with gangs involved in murder and abductions; and to put an end to arbitrary arrests and house searches by any party, except by order of a court of law;

8. The need to enhance the effectiveness of the Integrity Commission, ensuring its autonomy and impartiality, and to combat corruption;

9. The need to call on the State to provide security, to dissolve militias and put an end to the phenomenon of weapons use in its various forms and to find appropriate solutions for the members of such militias;

10. The need to build State institutions on the basis of allegiance to the nation, non-discrimination between citizens and reliance on criteria of ability and experience in making appointments to the various organs of the State,

irrespective of ethnicity, sex, ideology or religion, so as to ensure the effective participation of all the different components of the Iraqi population;

11. The need to expedite the formation of the Iraqi armed forces and security forces on a national and professional basis in accordance with a fixed timetable, going hand in hand with the departure of the foreign forces from Iraq and the establishment of full Iraqi sovereignty;

12. The need to reach a political and religious consensus at the national level in order to counteract the groups targeting Iraq and Iraqis;

13. The need to call on the Arab States to implement the provisions of the final communiqué of the preparatory meeting for the Conference on Iraqi National Accord concerning support for and strengthening of the Arab role in Iraq and take practical steps to that end, and to call on the General Secretariat to follow up such implementation;

14. The importance of neighbouring States' cooperating with Iraq, respecting its sovereignty, refraining from any interference in its internal affairs and supporting its efforts to ensure security, stability and reconstruction and to combat terrorism.

V. The Committee agreed to add two items to the agenda of the Conference on Iraqi National Accord, namely:

1. Ending the state of sectarian and ethnic tension;

2. Addressing the subject of forced displacement.

VI. 1. The Committee noted that a number of the confidence-building measures that had been agreed upon at the Cairo meeting in November 2005 had not been implemented satisfactorily. In consequence, it agreed on the following:

(a) The formation of a committee including the head of the Shia Awqaf (endowments), the head of the Sunni Awqaf, a group of religious leaders and the Arab League, to adopt the necessary measures to prevent the use of religious pulpits for the incitement of hatred and divisiveness;

(b) The launching of a campaign for the rebuilding of mosques and husseiniyas, churches and other places of worship and sacred sites;

(c) The promotion of the concepts and values of national unity and coexistence among all sects and components of the Iraqi people;

(d) Coordination with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in order to monitor efforts by the news media to bring the communities of the Iraqi people closer together and shun provocation, hatred, divisiveness and mutual recrimination;

2. Committees should be formed, at both the national and governorate levels, to promote the return of migrants to their homes and ensure their protection and indemnification.

VII. In the light of the foregoing, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate with all the initiatives proposed with a view to bringing about Iraqi national accord, including the initiative put forward by the Prime Minister of Iraq. It also requested the Secretary-General to liaise with the Government of Jordan

in order to set a date for the conference of Iraqi religious leaders and with the Organization of the Islamic Conference in order to convene the Mecca Conference of Islamic Scholars.

VIII. The Committee agreed to keep its meeting open, to invite the League of Arab States to continue its contacts with various parties with a view to their participation in bringing about Iraqi national accord and to support its efforts to that end. It also agreed, in the context of preparations for the Conference on Iraqi National Accord, to call for another meeting of the Committee, which should be attended by representatives of parties and groups that were unable to take part in the present meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in Baghdad or another Arab capital or at the headquarters of the Arab League in the first week of November 2006 at the latest, in preparation for the convening of the Conference on Iraqi National Accord at an early convenient date.